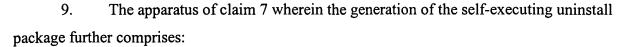<u>What is claimed is</u>:

1.   A computer implemented method for automatically uninstalling a software application resident on at least one computer terminal in a network, the method comprising:

identifying the steps required to uninstall the software application resident on a model computer;

generating a self-executing uninstall package from the information obtained in the identifying step, said self-executing uninstall package adapted to automatically remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal;

transmitting the self-executing uninstall package to the at least one terminal whereupon the self-executing uninstall package will automatically remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal.

2.   The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the self-executing uninstall package is generated by executing the steps of:

removing the software application from the model computer by using a corresponding uninstall program having a plurality of executable uninstall options, wherein said uninstall program is adapted to interface with a user in order to select which of the plurality of executable uninstall options are executed;

recording the uninstall options selected from the plurality of executable uninstall options within the uninstall program;

generating the self-executing uninstall package from the recorded selected uninstall option within the uninstall program.

3.   The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the self-executing uninstall package is generated by executing the steps of:

installing the software application on a model computer;

maintaining a record of the software application's install-time activities on the model computer;

generating the self-executing uninstall package from the record of the software
application's install-time activities.

4.   The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the self-executing
uninstall package contains a minimum number of run-time components required for removal of
the software application from the at least one computer terminal.

5.   The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step
includes:

identifying at least one specific computer terminal from which the software
application will be removed;

transmitting the self-executing uninstall package solely to the at least one specific
computer terminal whereupon the self-executing uninstall package executes
and removes the software application.

6.   The computer implemented method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

maintaining a record of the model computer's file system prior to installation of the
software application ;

installing the software application and subsequently executing the self-executing
uninstall package on the model computer;

verifying the self-executing uninstall package completely removed the software
application by comparing the model computer's resulting file system to the
maintained pre-installation record of the model computer's file system;

modifying the self-executing uninstall package so that the model computer's file
system after executing the self-executing uninstall package is equivalent to the
maintained pre-installation record of the model computer's file system.

7. An apparatus in a model computer for automatically uninstalling a software application resident on at least one computer terminal in a network, the apparatus comprising:

a detection module adapted to identify all the removal steps required to uninstall the software application from the at least one computer terminal;

a generation module adapted to create a self-executing uninstall package from the identified removal steps in the detection module, said self-executing uninstall package adapted to remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal; and

a transmission module adapted to transmit the self-executing uninstall package to the at least one computer terminal whereupon the self-executing uninstall package automatically executes and removes the software application.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the generation of the self-executing uninstall package further comprises:

an uninstall program, resident on the model computer, containing a plurality of executable uninstall options corresponding to the removal of the software application, said uninstall program adapted to interface with a user in order to select which of the plurality of executable uninstall options are executed;

the detection module being further adapted to record the uninstall program's selection of the executable uninstall options from the plurality of executable uninstall options;

the generation module being further adapted to generate the self-executing uninstall package from the recorded selection of executable uninstall options by the uninstall program.

9.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the generation of the self-executing uninstall package further comprises:

> the detection module being further adapted to record the software application's install-time activities during installation and identify the removal steps required to remove the software application;

> the generation module being further adapted to create the self-executing uninstall package from the identified removal steps in the detection module.

10.   The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the self-executing uninstall package contains a minimum set of run-time components required to uninstall the software application.

11.   The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising:

> the model computer maintaining a first record of the file system and registry prior to the installation of the software application;

> the self-executing uninstall package removing the software application from the model computer

> the model computer creating a second record of the file system and registry after the software application is removed;

> a verification module adapted to compare the first record of the file system and registry to the second record of the file system and registry;

> the generation module further adapted to modify the self-executing software application to ensure both records of the model computer's file system and registry are equivalent after the software application is removed.

12.   A computer program product comprising:

> a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing the removal of software applications resident on a plurality of computer terminals on a network, the computer program product including:

> a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the identification of the steps required to remove the software application from a model computer;

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the generation of an automatically self-executing uninstall package from the identified steps required to remove the software application from at least one computer terminal on the network;

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the transmission of the self-executing uninstall package to the at least one computer terminal whereupon the self-executing uninstall package will execute and remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal.

13. The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the generation of the self-executing uninstall package further comprises:

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the removal of the software application from the model computer by using a corresponding uninstall program having a plurality of executable uninstall options, said uninstall program adapted to interface with a user in order to select which of the executable uninstall options is executed;

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the monitoring of the selection of the executable uninstall options;

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the generation of the self-executing uninstall package from the selection of the executable uninstall options.

14. The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the generation of the self-executing uninstall package further comprises:

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the maintenance of a record of the software application's install-time activities;

a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the generation of the self-executing uninstall package from the maintained record of the software application's install-time activities.

15.   The computer program product of claim 12 wherein a computer readable program code device is configured to cause a computer to effect the self-executing uninstall package to contain a minimum set of run-time components required to remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal.